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ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION PUSHES FOR \$2 MILLION UPGRADE TO SALISBURY BEACH

SALISBURY – Romney Administration Environmental Secretary Ellen Herzfelder and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Kathy Abbott kicked off the summer recreation season at Salisbury Beach State Reservation today and released details of a \$2 million plan to improve the facilities at the beach.

Earlier this month Governor Mitt Romney proposed spending a part of the state's \$500 million fiscal 2004 budget surplus to increase the quality of life in communities throughout Massachusetts.

Romney's proposal would send \$100 million to cities and towns in the form of additional local aid and set aside \$254 million for one-time capital improvements across the state, including upgrades to roads and bridges and renovations to state recreation facilities such as parks, swimming pools and beaches. Romney proposed spending \$2 million for improvements to the Salisbury Beach State Reservation.

"The Romney Administration is committed to maintaining and improving the tremendous recreational infrastructure that makes Massachusetts such a great place to live," said Herzfelder. "Great opportunities like this don't come along often; we should seize this chance to make Salisbury an even better place for families to enjoy their valuable time together."

Herzfelder said the Governor's plan would allow DCR to proceed with a series of planned improvements to the reservation, including:

- Demolishing and rebuilding a condemned bathhouse;
- Rebuilding a lifeguard station;
- Upgrading and expanding the campground's electrical system, bringing power to 200 campsites.

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Upgrading each site from 30 AMPs to 50 AMPs would increase safety at Salisbury by reducing the number of candles and gas lanterns that campers now use for illumination at night.

“Visitors to Salisbury will see a world of difference if we’re able to move forward with these improvements,” said Abbott. “For the people of this community and for those who come here from near and far, I’d love to be able to put our plans in motion.”

Salisbury Beach is one of the state's most popular ocean beaches stretching 3.8 miles along the Atlantic Ocean. The 521-acre state reservation offers swimming, boating, fishing and camping and is very popular with trailer campers. Facilities include a 481-site campground with newly renovated bathhouses, extensive day-use parking lots, three new comfort stations, dune boardwalks and a new playground and pavilion area. The facility also boasts a popular boat ramp, located on the Merrimack River at the campground's southern edge.

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